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RIFLE BJT NL (220)

PUTNAMVILLE, IND., APRIL 3 (AP)--A RIFLE A TEXAS SALESMAN LEFT IN A TERRE HAUTE HOTEL THREE DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS OF THE SAME MODEL AS THAT NAMED IN THE PRESIDENT'S SLAYING, A FORMER POLICEMAN REVEALED TODAY.

FRANK RIDDLE, FORMER TERRE HAUTE POLICE CHIEF, SAID THE RIFLE, A 6.5 MILLIMETER ITALIAN MANNLICHER-CARCANO, WAS FOUND IN THE ROOM OCCUPIED BY A SALESMAN FROM SAN ANTONIO.

THE WEAPON WAS TURNED OVER TO THE SECRET SERVICE WITH DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION, SAID RIDDLE, NOW IN CHARGE OF CUSTODY AT THE STATE FARM NEAR HERE.

RIDDLE SAID SAN ANTONIO AUTHORITIES REPORTED THE SALESMAN HAD NO CRIMINAL RECORD, WAS A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND AN EXPERT RIFLE MARKSMAN. RIDDLE DECLINED TO NAME THE SALESMAN.

THE WARREN COMMISSION NAMED LEE HARVEY OSWALD AS KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN AND SAID HE ACTED ALONE.

THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION BY NEW ORLEANS DIST. ATTY. JIM GARRISON PROMPTED A NEWSMAN TO QUESTION RIDDLE.

RIDDLE SAID THE SALESMAN REGISTERED AT THE TERRE HAUTE HOUSE NOV. 25, 1963, AND WAS CARRYIN A "LONG PACKAGE," ACCORDING TO THE DESK CLERK. HE MADE TWO TELEPHONE CALLS. ONE WAS TO A GUN SHOP WHERE THE SALESMAN WAS TOLD THE RIFLE WOULD SELL FOR $5, RIDDLE SAID. THE OTHER CALL WAS TO A STORE THAT SOLD RIFLE AMMUNITION.

THE MAN CHECKED OUT NOV. 26, RIDDLE SAID, AND BOUGHT A BUS TICKET TO ST. LOUIS.

A MAID FOUND THE RIFLE, WHICH RIDDLE SAID CONTAINED NO FINGERPRINTS.

RIDDLE SAID HE HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH GARRISON OR HIS STAFF. "I THINK GARRISON MAY HAVE SOMETHING," HE SAID, "BUT I

DON'T VBAN TO CONTACT HIM WITH THE INFORMATION I HAE."

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